

Whereas 8 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 217.2 (2005) delineates the specific requirements of the visa waiver program, including the list of countries whose citizens may take advantage of its provisions; and

Whereas the list of countries allowed to have the visa requirement waived includes Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom; and

Whereas citizens from Poland are still required to go through the visa process, despite the change in circumstances of that nation during the last 15 years and its being a staunch ally of the United States; and

Whereas since the breakup of the Soviet Union, Poland has been a free and democratic nation and is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, known as NATO, and is an indispensable ally to our own Nation, actively participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Iraqi reconstruction with troops serving alongside American soldiers; and

Whereas the President of the United States, George W. Bush, and other high-ranking officials in our government have described Poland as one of our best allies; and

Whereas many Polish citizens wanting to visit the United States are relatives of American citizens and they face major impediments in the visa process, while Americans going to Poland have had the visa requirement waived for them since 1991; and

Whereas in view of the enormous strides that Poland has made in democratic reform and the new status of Poland as a major ally of the United States, as firm and staunch as our oldest allies who have had the visa requirement waived: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge that Poland be included in the United States Department of Homeland Security's visa waiver program as codified in 8 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 217.2; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, the United States Secretary of Homeland Security, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and the President of the United States Senate and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

POM-136. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii relative to conferring veterans' benefits on Filipino veterans of World War II; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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Whereas approximately 142,000 Philippine nationals were inducted into the United States armed forces in 1941, when their country was under American control; and

Whereas Filipino soldiers fought bravely beside American troops to restore liberty and democracy to their homeland by volunteering as spies, serving as guerrillas in the jungles, and fighting in American units in the war against Japan; and

Whereas these soldiers exhibited great courage at the battles of Corregidor and Bataan, and their bravery and self-sacrifice contributed to the Allied victory in World War II; and

Whereas the United States promised Filipino soldiers the same benefits as American soldiers, then rescinded that promise five years later; and

Whereas the Legislature finds that the United States should honor its promise to the Filipino veterans; and

Whereas Filipino interest groups estimate that there are approximately 58,000 Filipino World War II veterans still alive, 12,000 of them living in the United States; and

Whereas time is running out for the United States to correct the injustice committed against Filipino World War II veterans as most are now elderly and frail, and approximately eight die per day based on 2004 mortality statistics from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; and

Whereas there are several measures pending in Congress that propose to confer veterans' benefits on Filipino veterans of World War II; and

Whereas these legislative measures include S. 146, H.R. 302, and H.R. 170; and

Whereas S. 146 and H.R. 302, (Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2005), amend Title 38 of the United States Code to deem certain service in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts to be active service for purposes of benefits under programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

Whereas under H.R. 170, (Filipino Veterans Fairness Act) Filipino World War II veterans who became United States citizens or legal aliens are entitled to service-connected disability payments, vocational rehabilitation, and housing loans; Filipino World War II veterans residing in the Philippines are entitled to out-patient health care; and veterans' spouses and dependents are entitled to educational and vocational assistance; and

Whereas passage of these measures will mean official recognition of Filipino veterans as American veterans, who will become eligible for veterans' benefits such as health care, disability compensation, pension, burial, housing loans, education, and vocational rehabilitation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2005, the Senate concurring, that the United States Congress is urged to support and pass legislation conferring veterans' benefits on Filipino World War II veterans; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of Hawaii's delegation to the Congress of the United States.

POM-137. A resolution adopted by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, relative to the Community Development Block Grant Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

POM-138. A resolution adopted by the Municipal Legislature of Moca, Puerto Rico relative to the opposition of the elimination of the Community Development Block Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

POM-139. A resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Oceanside, California relative to the funding of Amtrak; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-140. A resolution adopted by the Passaic County (New Jersey) Board of Chosen Freeholders relative to the Passaic River Restoration Initiative; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-141. A resolution adopted by the Mayor and Municipal Council of the City of Clifton, New Jersey relative to the Passaic River Restoration Initiative; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2005, the fol-

lowing reports of committees were submitted on June 10, 2005:

By Mr. BURNS, from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 2361. A bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109-80).

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. ENZI for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

*Lester M. Crawford, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 1268. A bill to expedite the transition to digital television while helping consumers to continue to use their analog televisions; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BOND, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 1269. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify certain activities the conduct of which does not require a permit; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 1270. A bill to provide for the implementation of a Green Chemistry Research and Development Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 1271. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide improved benefits for veterans who are former prisoners of war; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. 1272. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, and title II of the Social Security Act to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. REID:

S. 1273. A bill to provide for the sale and adoption of excess wild free-roaming horses and burros; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated: